

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the application, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's request for revision of the title to be somewhat more descriptive of the invention, and accordingly, applicant has amended the title to read "ERGONOMIC MODULAR SHELVING WORKSTATION". This is essentially in conformance with the type of disclosure which pertains to an ergonomic shelving arrangement forming a workstation, preferably such as for a computer and other components, and is similar in concept to the titles provided for in the cited Brown, et al. and Dame, et al. publications. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to accept the amended proposed title.

Furthermore, application notes the Examiner's rejection of the claims, as being either anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with regard to Claims 1-8, 10 and 18, in view of Belcher, U.S. Patent No. 1,324,537; and the rejection of the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the basis of Belcher alone or in combination with Jellies, Dame, et al., Brown, et al., Wang, and Charny, as extensively detailed in the Office Action.

However, upon careful consideration of the art, applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as presently on file, clearly and unambiguously contain features for which patent protection should be granted.

Accordingly, in order to provide these distinctions over the art, applicant has cancelled Claims 2, 3 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer and incorporated the limitations thereof into Claim 1, with the remaining claims being amended so as to be dependent either directly or indirectly from the more limited Claim 1.

In particular, amended Claim 1 provides for the shelving structure having the particular notching and support features, which is not at all disclosed in the art, and comprising a central hollow columnar member having the particular notches and cutouts prevented therein for uniquely supporting the shelving at diverse elevations.

Reverting to the art, particularly with regard to the primary reference of record to Belcher, this publication merely describes a basic storage arrangement, wherein uprights have notches or slots formed into the front portion thereof, which are adapted to be engaged by shelves at various heights on the columns. This particular simple and logically crude structure in no manner is deemed to be analogous to the present invention, and is primarily of a type for supporting books or the like and would not provide for the ergonomic arrangement and hollow columnar structure of a central nature for providing shelves and incorporating space for computer supply lines supported thereon and within the hollows.

To the contrary, Belcher only permits the shelves to be supported along various locations about the axial length of each shelf by the uprights and does not in any manner provide for a central hollow column having the particular type of shelf, computer and electrical lines support structure analogous to that set forth and claimed herein, which enables the shelves to be supported from merely the central columnar location thereof.

Furthermore, the claims, as amended herein, and particularly amended Claim 1, provides for this particular type of unique configuration and support for pluralities of shelves

having workstations at which computers or other components may be readily selectively and interchangeably supported on diverse supports.

Reverting to the secondary references of record, which have been cited primarily with regard to various of the dependent claims, applicant notes that Jellies merely describes clamping devices for cables or the like and would have nothing in common with an ergonomic workstation having shelves pursuant to the present invention.

Similarly, with regard to Dame, et al., this only describes a pair of uprights, which are spaced and which have openings provided therein adapted to receive a shelf structure. Again, this publication does not in any manner provide for the unique central columnar arrangement.

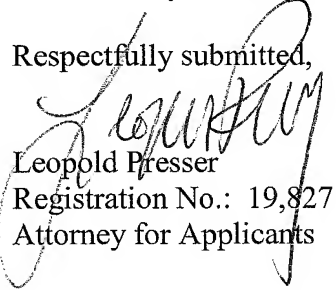
Similarly, Brown, et al. merely provides for a computer workstation having pivotable members arranged on an upright cylindrical post, and has nothing in common with the ergonomic shelving structure according to the present claimed invention.

With regard to Wang and Charny, these publications also merely provide for different types of support structures having nothing in common with the present configuration and arrangement set forth in the claims.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing comments and amendments to the claims, which in a more restrictive and definitive manner clearly provide for patentable distinctions over the cited art, irrespective as to whether the latter is considered singly or in combination, the early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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